the Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers has announced to set up six National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Hazipur (Bihar), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Kolkata (West Bengal), Rai Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh) and Guwahati (Assam).

Wingspan Stent System

2031. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new device "Wingspan Stent System" is proposed to be launched to help cure the blockages in the artery of the brain;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the extent of brain stroke ailment in the country; and

(d) how far this new device will prove to be boon to the patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The Wingspan Stent is likley to be launched in the country by Boston Scientific Company. The device consists of self expanding system that is meant for symptomatic treatment of patients with high grade intracranial atherosclerotic disease causing blockage of vessel and not responding to other modes of treatment.

(c) According to an ICMR study on Assessment of Burden of Non communicable Diseases, the weighted average of prevalence rate of stroke in a meta analysis was found to be 1.54 per thousand. The number of cases of stroke were estimated 9.3 lakh in 2004. The number of stroke cases is expected to rise rapidly with changing life styles and increase in life span.

(d) This device may be helpful for some patient of the stroke who have severe intracranial atherosclerotic disease causing blockage of vessel and not responding to other treatments or having recurrent strokes despite treatment. Such cases are only very small fraction of total stroke population.

Screening programme for cervical cancer

2032. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start organised screening programme for cervical cancer that is increasingly affecting the women in the country;

(b) if so, whether the international measures such as vaccination which helps in arresting the growth of cancer is actively pursued;

(c) if so, how many women in Andhra Pradesh are vaccinated during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) This Ministry is already providing grant-in-aid for implementation of District Cancer Control Programme under National Cancer Control Programme which specially focus on early detection of cancer including that of cervical and breast cancer among women. Further, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has also started pilot project on screening of Cervix, Breast and Oral Cancer in three districts of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) to (d) The Human Papiloma Virus (HPV) has been identified as the causative agent for cervical cancer. ICMR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a leading company for carrying out the clinical trials of the HPV Vaccine in cervical cancer. Since the vaccine is yet to put on trial, no vaccination has been carried out for the same.

Purchase of medicines by CGHS and Government hospitals

2033. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government purchases medicines through open tender from the lowest (L-1) bidder compromising with the quality of the medicines;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to change procurement system to provide best quality medicines to the people;

(c) the quantum of drugs purchased by CGHS and other Central Government hospitals during the last three years indicating source of purchase, medicine-wise; and

(d) the details of companies blacklisted for supplying sub-standard/spurious drugs during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Information is given in the enclosed Statement.